

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 are amended.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Peng Ke at the interview held October 4, 2005 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,661,437 to Miller (hereinafter "Miller") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,845,124 to Berman (hereinafter "Berman"), further in view of U.S. Patent 5,781,247 to Wehmeyer (hereinafter "Wehmeyer"). We respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action asserts that Miller discloses an operating method for sequentially performing settings for plural items in predetermined order comprising the steps of: sequentially displaying, on a display device plural setting frames provided to the plural items, respectively; and displaying all the plural items in a single display when one of the plural

setting frames is displayed. (See Miller, Fig. 9, Items 910, 915, and 920 and Col. 7, lines 44-55), wherein items which have already been set along with a set parameter and items which are being set are displayed so as to be distinguishable from each other. (See Miller, Col. 5, lines 20-25).

The Office Action also asserts that Berman discloses items which have been already set, items which are being set, and items which have not yet been set are displayed so as to be distinguishable from one another. (See Berman, Col. 8, lines 1-13).

However, the Examiner acknowledges that neither Miller nor Berman teaches displaying both the set menu items and the menu items that have not been set in a single frame.

The Office Action goes on to assert that Wehmeyer discloses displaying both the set menu items and the menu items that have not been set in a single frame (Fig. 2, Items 203-207; Col. 2, lines 32-48). We respectfully traverse this assertion.

Wehmeyer does not teach or suggest displaying both the set menu items and the menu items that have not been set in a single frame when all of the button fields have been assigned a menu item (See Wehmeyer, Fig. 2, and Col. 2, lines 29-31). Instead, Wehmeyer teaches displaying the button fields 206 and 207 that are unassigned.

Independent claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 have been amended to provide further clarification.

Based on the discussion presented above, we believe that independent claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, dependent claims 3-6, 9-12, 15, 17, 19 and 21 are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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